

Pharrell Williams, Musician



*I am overly ambitious, because
I realize it can be done.*

*Huh, because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you know what happiness is to you
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do
(Happy by Pharrell Williams)*

1 These are some of the lyrics for the number one song in America in 2014. The song was written by Pharell Williams for the movie *Despicable Me II*. Taking a look at the success of Pharell Williams, it is easy to see why he is happy.

2 Pharell Williams has always loved music. As a child, he learned to play the drums. He was a drummer in his high school band. This is where he met his friend Chad Hugo who played the saxophone. The two friends started a band called *The Neptunes*. The band was offered a record contract while they were still in school.

3 Pharell and Chad also learned how to produce music for others. They produced songs for stars like Justin Timberlake and Snoop Dog. In 2001, the friends started a

new group called N.E.R.D. This group produced albums in 2002, 2004, 2008, and 2010. Then, in 2006, Pharell launched his solo career. His album was a combination of hip-hop and pop. As of 2020, Pharrell has been nominated for 38 Grammy Awards and has won 13.

4 Besides producing music, Pharrell has written a children's book and he is a fashion designer. His clothing lines are called *The Billionaire Boys Club* and *Icecream*. He is also a coach for the popular reality series, *The Voice*.

5 Pharrell also believes in giving back to his community. He is the leader of an organization called From One Hand To AnOTHER" (FOHTA). This organization provides opportunities and tools to students in the areas of science, technology, engineering, art, math, and motivation. He also has the Pharrell Williams Resource Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This is a place for students to stay and study after the school day ends.

Name: _____

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1. A person who is *ambitious* has a strong desire and determination to succeed. Pharrell Williams says, "I am overly ambitious, because I know it can be done." Does Pharrell's life reflect this statement? Support your answer with details from the text.

2. What details from the passage support the statement below:

Pharrell is a successful musician.

3. What can you infer from the details below?

- ☐ He is the leader of an organization called From One Hand To AnOTHER" (FOHTA). This organization provides opportunities and tools to students in the areas of science, technology, engineering, art, math, and motivation.
- ☐ He also has the Pharrell Williams Resource Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This is a place for students to stay and study after the school day ends.
- ☐ He has written a children's book.

4. Summarize what Pharrell Williams does in one sentence.
